

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node comprising:  
receiving registration information;  
executing a self-selection method on an apparatus in response to receiving the registration information, the self-selection method enabling the apparatus to select itself as a home agent; and  
responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.
2. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information is RFC 3422 compliant information.
3. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises timestamp information.
4. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises network access identifier information.
5. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the registration information comprises mobile address information.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the self-selection method comprises performing a perfect hashing algorithm.
  
7. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the self-selection method comprises performing a round robin algorithm.
  
8. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein the self-selection method comprises performing a Pearson algorithm.
  
9. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the self-selection method further comprising:
  - generating a value;
  - determining that the value is within a range of numbers; and
  - responding to the registration information in response to determining that the value is within the range of numbers.
  
10. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, wherein load balancing is performed in response to performing the method of registering a mobile node.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 1, the self-selection method further comprising:

generating a value that falls within a range of numbers;

comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers; and

if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers responding to the registration information.

12. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 11, wherein the value is randomly generated.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node comprising:  
receiving registration information at a home agent;  
generating a value that falls within a range of numbers in response to receiving the registration information;  
comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;  
and  
if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.
14. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a bin.
15. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 13, wherein the value is randomly generated.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node comprising:

- receiving registration information at a home agent;
- identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information;
- generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;
- comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;

and

- if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.

17. (Original) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein the predefined range of numbers is a secondary bin.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to checking a retransmission bit field.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node as set forth in claim 16, wherein identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to identifying a number of registration attempts.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:  
an input interface configured for receiving registration information;  
a processing unit configured for self-selecting the apparatus as a home agent in response to receiving the registration information and for responding to the registration information in response to performing the self-selecting.
22. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a home agent.
23. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.
24. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:  
an input interface configured for receiving registration information at a home agent; and  
a processor configured to:  
identify the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in  
response to receiving the registration information;  
generate a value in response to identifying the registration information as a  
retransmission of a registration request;  
compare the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the  
value; and  
if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, respond to the registration  
information.
26. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireless device.
27. (Original) An apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein the apparatus is a wireline device.



28. (Previously Presented) A method of registering a mobile node comprising:
- receiving registration information at a home agent;
  - identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request in response to receiving the registration information, wherein identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request is performed in response to at least a one of checking a retransmission bit field, determining time elapsed from an initial registration attempt and identifying a number of registration attempts;
  - generating a value in response to identifying the registration information as a retransmission of a registration request;
  - comparing the value to a predefined range of numbers in response to generating the value;
- and
- if the value falls within the predefined range of numbers, responding to the registration information.